



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
From 'Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest'

CENTUNCULUS MINIMUS **CHAFFWEED**

Chaffweed is an annual with prostrate or erect stems, 2-10 cm long, that are branched near the base and root at the nodes. The alternate leaves, 5-10 mm long, are egg to spoon-shaped with entire margins. Foliage is glabrous. Solitary, inconspicuous flowers on short stalks occur in the leaf axils. Each flower has a deeply 4-lobed calyx, 2-3 mm long, and a small, pink, 4-lobed, tubular corolla, ca. 1 mm long, that withers on the maturing ovary. There are 4-5 stamens, and the fruit is a globose capsule that is ca. 2 mm long. Flowering and fruiting June-September.

GLAUX MARITIMA is similar but has lower leaves that are opposite each other and it is perennial. A hand lens or microscope may be needed for positive identification.